



NOAA
FISHERIES

Sustainably Managing Fisheries Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act

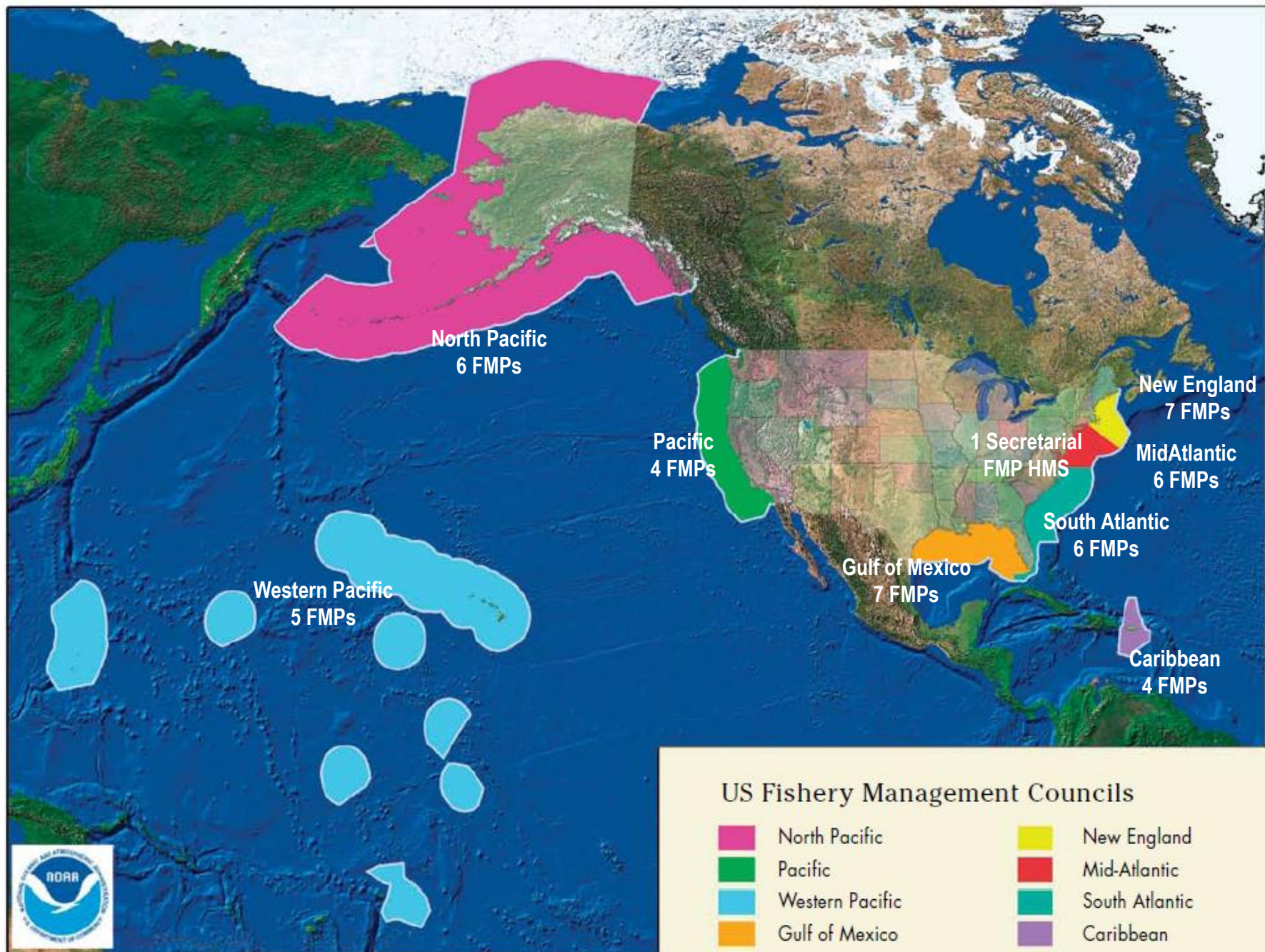
Galen R. Tromble
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July 10, 2013

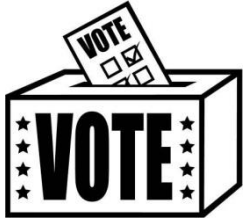
Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA)



- Primary law governing marine fisheries management in United States federal waters.
- Purpose: “Conserve and manage the fishery resources found off the Coasts of the US, and the anadromous species and Continental Shelf fishery resources of the US” (MSA §2(b)(1))
- Enacted in 1976 with significant amendments in 1996 and 2007
- Established 8 Regional Fishery Management Councils
- Coastal states have jurisdiction in nearshore waters.



Council Structure



Voting members

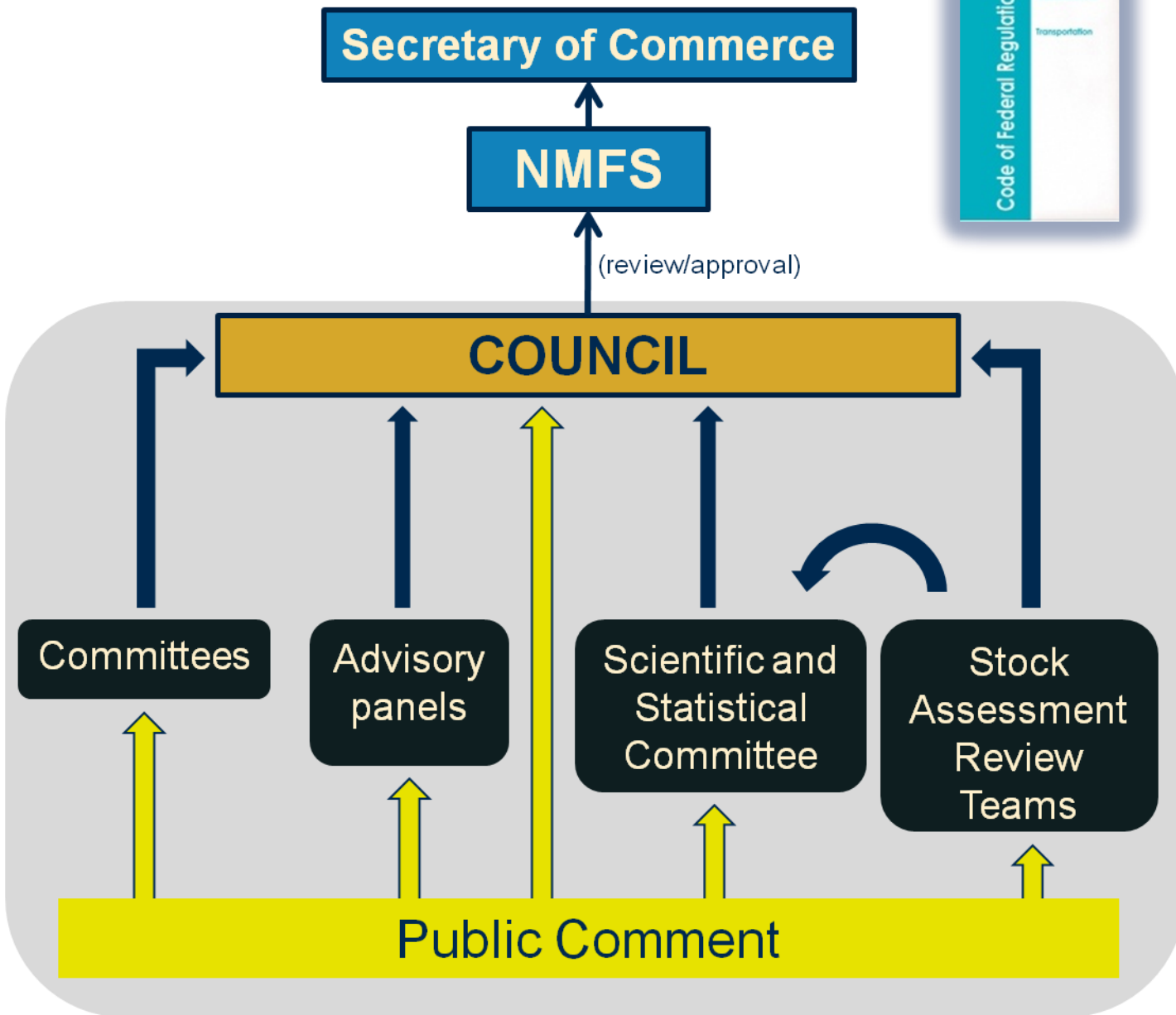
- State marine fishery management officials
- Individuals appointed by Secretary of Commerce from Governor's nominees
- NMFS Regional Administrator
- Representative from local tribal or territorial governments in some regions.)



Non-voting members

- Executive Director of Marine Fisheries Commission
- Regional representatives:





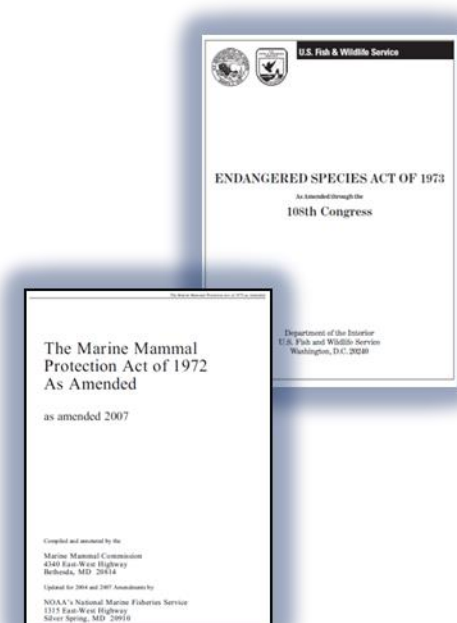
Council Meetings

- 4-5 meetings annually
- Open public meetings – public testimony opportunity
- Industry advisory panel and SSC meet in public session
- 14-day advance notice of action items
- Commonly web-cast

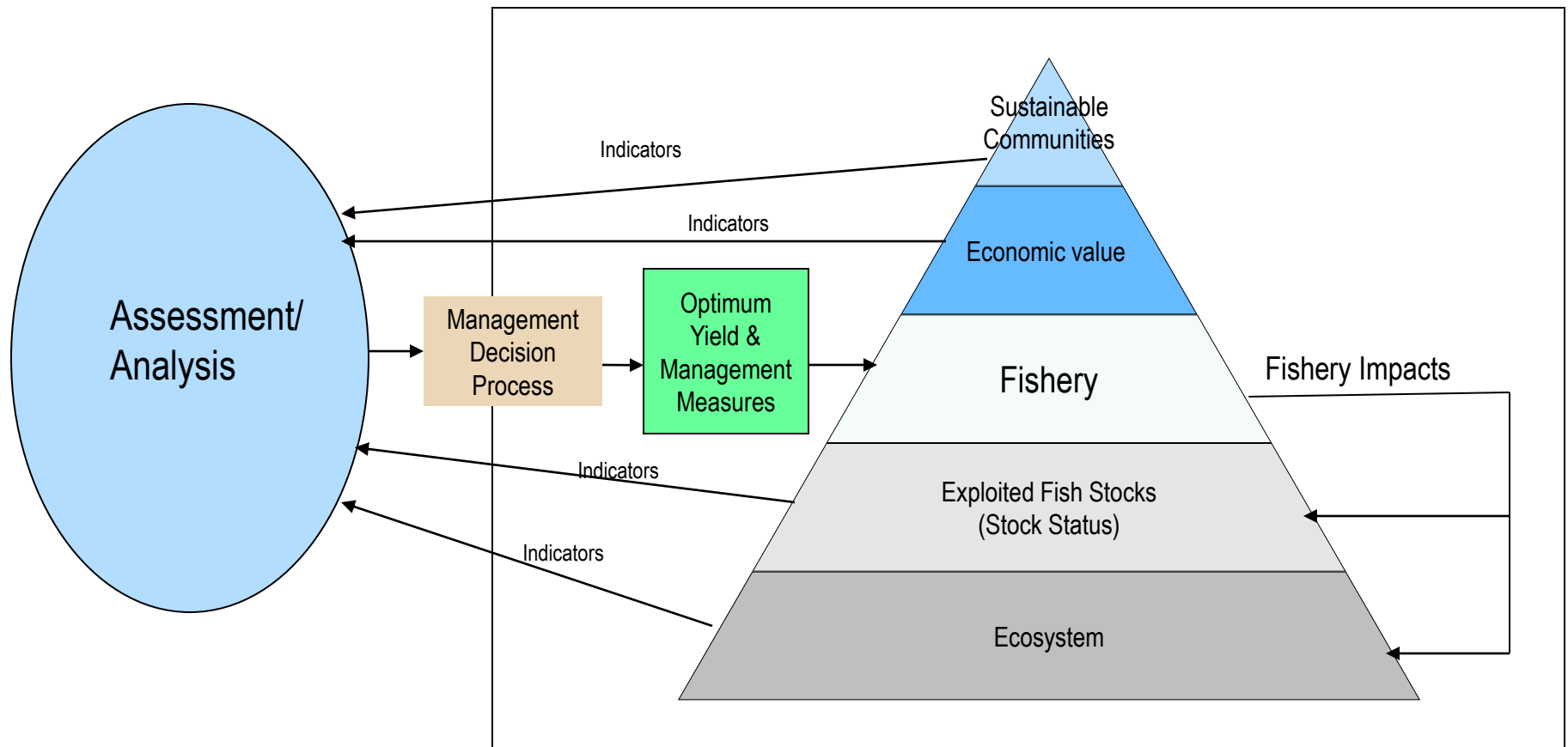


Other applicable laws for fisheries

- **National Environmental Policy Act** (NEPA, 1969)
Alternatives to minimize environmental impacts
e.g. Is there a significant impact on the environment?
- **Endangered Species Act** (ESA, 1973)
Prohibits unauthorized taking and possession of endangered species
- **Marine Mammal Protection Act** (MMPA, 1972)
Prohibits “take” of marine mammals with limited exceptions
- **Regulatory Flexibility Act** (RFA, 1980)
Consider economic impacts and alternatives
- **Administrative Procedure Act** (APA, 1946)
Requires notice and public comment on all regulations
- **Other**
CZMA, NMSA, PRA, EO 12866, DQA, treaty rights, etc.



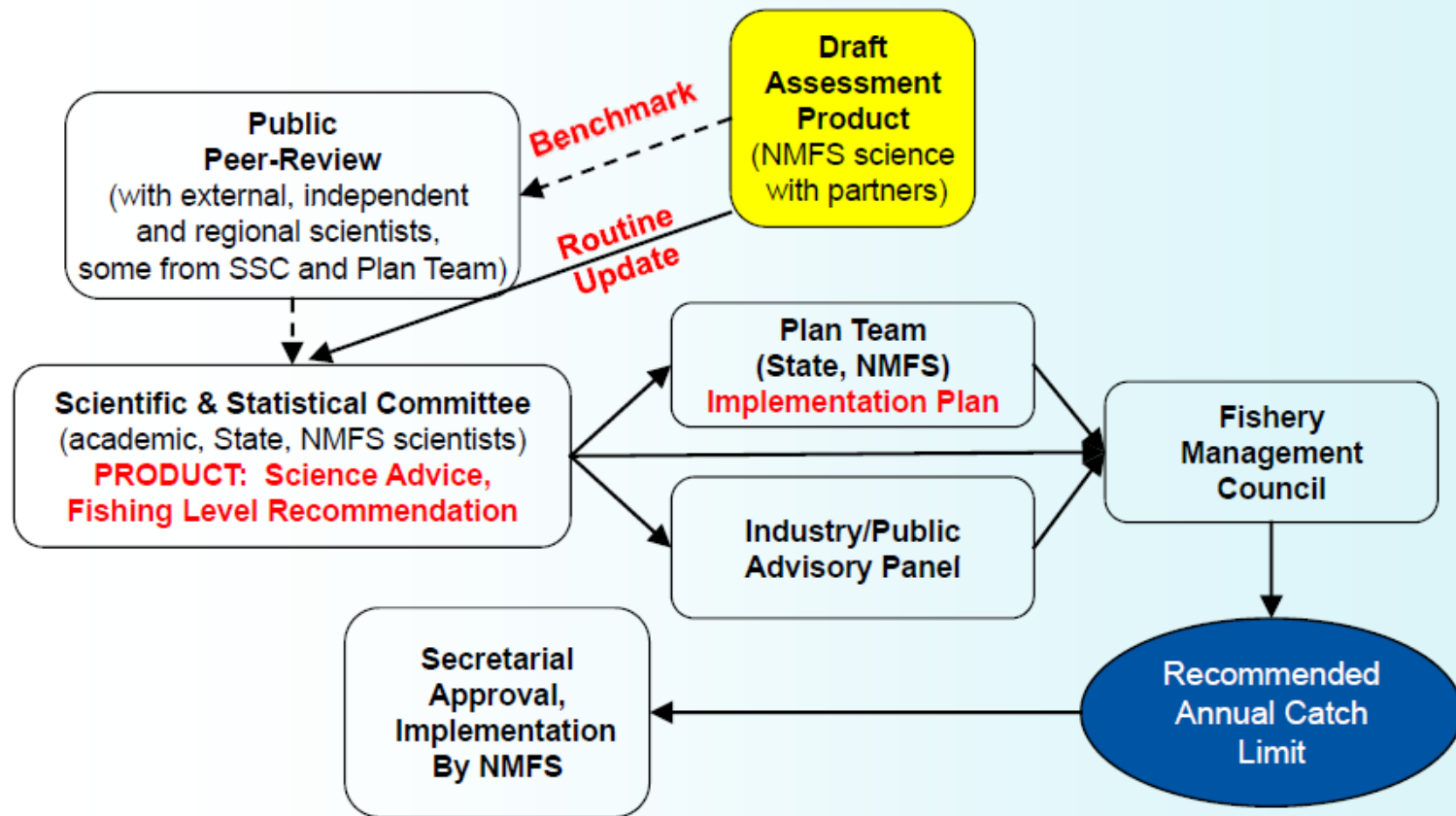
Conceptual Model for Sustainable Fisheries Management



Science in the Management Process

NS1 - Prevent overfishing while achieving, on a continuing basis, the optimum yield

NS2 - Best scientific information available



NMFS Fisheries Management Program

Long Term Outcomes

- Fishery resources are sustainably managed within healthy ecosystems
- Fisheries support healthy, vibrant fishing communities
- Seafood supply is safe and sustainable

Fishery Performance

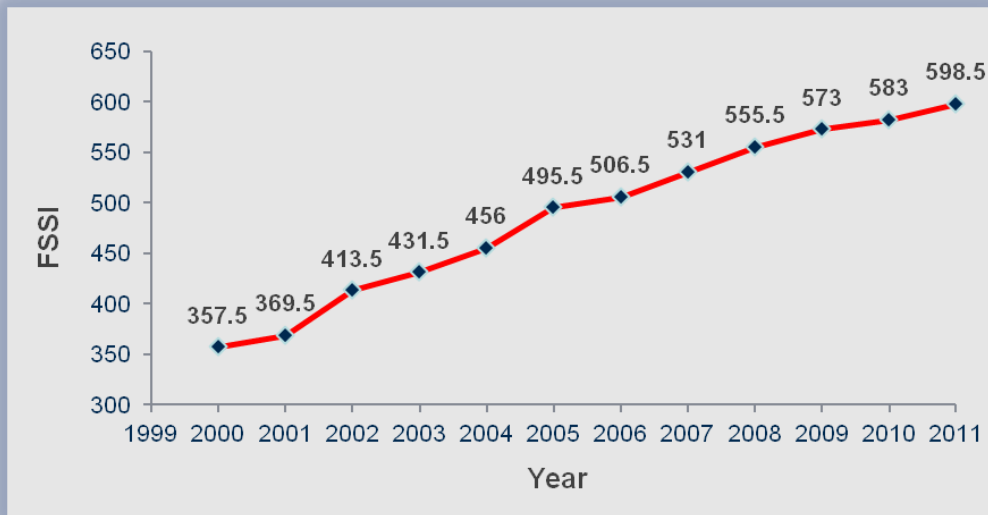
- Stock Status (NMFS tracks 446 stocks and stock complexes in 45 FMPs)

(a) **overfishing** status – fishing **mortality** (harvest) rate

(Is the rate of removal too high?)

(b) **overfished** status – **biomass** level (B_{MSY})

(Is the population too low?)



- Fish Stock Sustainability Index (FSSI)

(227 stocks selected for their importance to commercial and recreational fisheries – over 90% of catch.)

Fishery Performance

- Rebuilding to B_{msy}
 - MSA (1996) requirement that overfished stocks have rebuilding plans
 - 32 stocks have been rebuilt since 2000
 - 50 stocks are currently in rebuilding plans

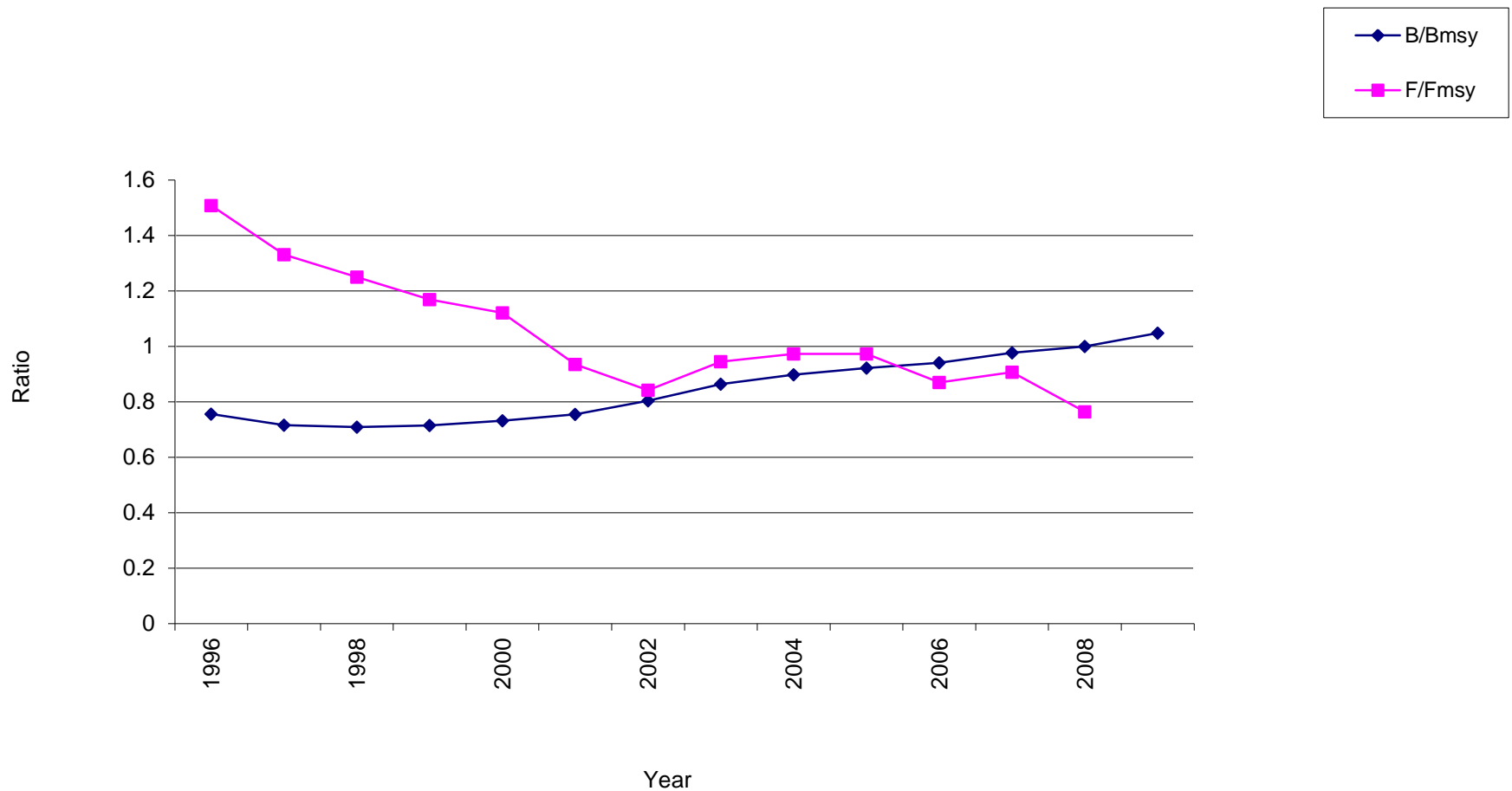


Performance Reporting

- Status of U.S. Fisheries (annual report to Congress)
- Quarterly FSSI and stock status reports on NMFS website
- FishWatch website
- National Bycatch Report



Rebuilding of North Atlantic Swordfish



Social and economic performance indicators

- **Economic performance indicators** on revenue and effort trends in:
 - **Catch Share programs - Summer 2013**
(e.g., number of entities holding shares, number of active vessels, number of days at sea, revenue per vessel, revenue per day, etc.)
 - **NON-Catch Share fisheries - Summer 2013 (tentative)**
(e.g., number of active vessels, number of days at sea, revenue per vessel, revenue per day, etc.)
- **Social indicators in Catch Share programs and NON-Catch Share fisheries - 2013/2014**
(e.g., crew payments, demographics, job satisfaction, community resiliency, etc.)
- Provide information for managers, Councils, and industry to evaluate fisheries management and make adjustments as needed.

Achieving Sustainability through Continuous Improvement

Some key questions about sustainability:

- Do we understand the condition of the fishery?
- Are there identified problems in the fishery?
 - Stock status
 - Economic
 - Environmental
- Are the problems being addressed?

If so, the fishery will continue to improve, and is positioned for long-term sustainability.

Thank You!

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